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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 1, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The response from the families of POW/MIA to your press conference has been most favorable. I believe that your answers to the POW/MIA questions gave the reassurance that we need to keep the families with us at least for the time being.

From my personal observation, you hit each and every aspect of the areas that have been troubling these families and, although I and other members of the Staff have been responding to these questions, it was essential that they hear it from you. I feel that your handling of the issue at this press conference has done more good than all of our other public relation efforts to date.

I am sending the POW/MIA excerpts from your press conference to all of the families concerned.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES D. HUGHES

Don—
mail them a
all brief
hard hitting summary
of the effort we made
last week in Paris
& the follow in Laos